

**School & Library Network
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
March 17, 1999**

Members Present: Bill Black, Phil Lindley, Reginald Palmer, Ray Poulin, Gary Nichols, Joanne Steneck

Members Absent: Barry Crommet, Barry McCrum, Stephen Gilbert

1. February 10, 1999 meeting minutes approved.
2. Report on Possible Governor's Initiative for AmeriCorps Project Related to schools and Libraries. Jim Doyle, from the Governor's Office, described a possible grant proposal being developed by the Maine Commission for Community Service (MCCS) to obtain federal funding to support an effort to increase computer literacy and ability to use the Internet for research/education in four groups: library staff, library patrons, K-12 teachers and parents of students. The Federal guidelines provide for a 3-year program with local matching funds. The required local match increases from 40% in year 1, to 50% in year 2, and to 60% in year 3. MCCS is looking for local funds totalling \$450,000, some of which can be in-kind. MCCS is requesting that the MSLN funds be used for the local match.

The Board discussed various training needs and ways of addressing those needs. The greatest needs identified were training assistance to small libraries and library patrons and training for teachers so they can integrate the Internet into their classroom teaching. It was decided that a subcommittee of Gary Nichols, Ray Poulin and Art Henry would discuss possibilities with Mary Alice Crofton of MCCS over the next two weeks. Any proposals will be communicated to Board members by e-mail. A telephone meeting will be held, if necessary. The grant deadline is at the end of April. The Board would need to make any recommendation to the Commission in time for its consideration at deliberations on April 20, 1999.

3. Status of Connections, Expanded Bandwidth and Circuit Rider Service. Art Henry reported that he has received 135 applications for T-1 connections (representing 162 school and libraries). 50 sites have been referred for circuit rider service, 46 sites have had T-1's installed and 54 are scheduled through April 30, 1999. Circuit Riders had conducted 51 on-site visits through March 12, 1999.
4. AEV for ATM sites. On March 11, 1999, the Commission approved additional financial support for sites choosing ATM. The Commission agreed that MSLN funds could pay for the OC-3 line through June 2000. Estimated cost is

\$70,500. The Commission also agreed to monthly support of \$358 for sites choosing ATM. The site must first apply for Federal E-Rate discounts.

5. E-Rate. Edna Comstock reported that 174 applicants received E-Rate discounts totaling \$2,923,471 for the period January 1998 - June 1999. All grants are complete but some sites may appeal denials.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday April 14, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. at the Commission.